Identifying Export items to accelerate exports

2045. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI KANAKSINH MOHAN SINH MANGROLA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some export items have been identified which need special attention in order to accelerate the pace of export;

(b) if so, the names of those items; and

(c) the details of the special attention to be provided to these items and the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Government have identified 34 commodities/commodity groups called 'Extreme Focus Products' for a special export thrust, based on their potential to achieve a 30% growth per annum over the medium term.

(b) These commodities/commodity groups are aquaculture, agro-chemicals, auto components, bicycles and parts, cement, complete vehicles, drugs and pharmaceuticals, dyes and intermediates, electric power generation and distribution equipment, floriculture, footwear, fresh fruits, gold jewellery, granites, handtools, internal combustion engines and parts, industrial castings and forgings, tomato paste products, tropical fruit juices, pulp and concentrates, preserved mushrooms, readymade garments, rice, software packages, system software, network computer-aided designs, computer aided manufactures, spices, sugar, molasses, alcohol including ethyl alcohol, sugar machinery, synthetic and man-made textiles, and tyres.

(c) To increase exports of these commodities, the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Groups in respect of these commodities and several decisions have been taken which include reduction in interest rate on export credit, directions to commercial banks to increase the availability of credit to the export sector, opening-up Inland Container Depots (ICD's) and Container Freight Stations (CF's) to the private sectors, extending testing facilities for packaging materials in the country, and simplification of procedures relating to bank guarantees for fulfilment of export obligations.

Aggregate exports estimated at $18.54 billion in 1992-93 registered annual growth of 3.8% over 1991-92. In 1991-92 exports had suffered a decline of 1.5% in dollar terms. In 1993-94, the exports registered a significant growth of about 20%, and were at the level of $22.24 billion.

Target for Exports

2046. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether target for exports by the year 2000 is fixed at 100 billion dollars;

(b) if so, on what basis;

(c) what is the target for the current and next three years; and

(d) how the targets are going to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) No export target has been set for 1994-95. However, trade and industry have been exhorted to achieve export growth of 25% during the current year. The Eighth Plan, 1992-97 envisages on export target of 13.6% per annum, in volume terms (at 1991-92 prices), during the Plan period. This implies that exports during 1996-97 are expected to attain a